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Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:HWEBB:AMP
APPROVED BY IO/TRC - CHARLES HARTLEY
L/T:MMCQUADE
L/UNA:SBOND (INFO)
USTS:DHENRY
L/ECP:JBUSHONG
COMMERCE/L:PBREED
----------025118 020041Z /63
P 012301Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 287162

FOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, BIE

SUBJECT: BIE: PROPOSAL TO APPLY PROVISIONALLY 1972
PROTOCOL

REFS: A) PARIS A-371; B) PLAISTED MEMO TO DIAMANTI OF
NOVEMBER 16

1. THE U.S. DEPOSITED ITS RATIFICATION ON JANUARY 18, 1974
TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1972 AMENDING THE CONVENTION OF 1928
(WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL EXPOSI-
TIONS - BIE). ARTICLE IV OF THE PROTOCOL PROVIDES THAT IT
SHALL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE DATE ON WHICH 29 STATES
BECOME PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL (AS EVIDENCED BY SIGNATURE
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WITHOUT RESERVATION AS TO RATIFICATION OR BY THE DEPOSIT
OF THEIR RATIFICATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE -
ARTICLE III, PARA 2). TO DATE ONLY 26 MEMBER STATES
HAVE COMPLETED THEIR RATIFICATION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE
BIE (AMBASSADOR TROENDLE OF SWITZERLAND) NOW PROPOSES THAT
THE BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (WHICH MEETS DECEMBER 14) DECIDE
ITSELF TO APPLY PROVISIONALLY THE 1972 PROTOCOL (UNTIL THE

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FINAL THREE RATIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED). SYG CHALON HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS BY DECEMBER 2.

2. A BASIC PURPOSE OF THE NEW PROTOCOL (WHICH INVOLVES A COMPLETE REVISION OF THE CONVENTION) IS TO LIMIT THE FREQUENCY OF EXPOSITIONS AND, THEREBY, TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL DEMANDS ON PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. URGENCY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DESIRE FOR MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS OVER EXPOSITION FREQUENCY BY THE FACT THAT AMERICAN CITIES ARE APPROACHING THE BIE IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS WITH PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS FOR WHICH THEY WILL WANT BIE ENDORSEMENT. LOS ANGELES HAS ALREADY RECEIVED BIE REGISTRATION FOR A CATEGORY ONE (UNIVERSAL) EXPOSITION (MAJOR WORLD'S FAIR) FOR 1981 AND KNOXVILLE FOR A SPECIAL CATEGORY EXPOSITION (WITH AN ENERGY THEME) FOR 1982. IN ADDITION, NEW ORLEANS MADE AN INFORMAL PRESENTATION AT THE TIME OF THE LAST BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR A SPECIAL EXPOSITION (NOW INDICATING POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS 1983) AND PHOENIX AND PERHAPS OTHER CITIES ARE WAITING IN THE WINGS.

3. SECTION II OF THE NEW PROTOCOL WOULD RESTRICT THE DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF EXPOSITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE SAME COUNTRY, A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS BETWEEN A UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION AND A SPECIALIZED EXPOSITION WOULD BE REQUIRED. TWO SPECIALIZED EXPOSITIONS OF A DIFFERENT KIND
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WOULD REQUIRE A FIVE YEAR INTERVAL IN THE SAME COUNTRY, ETC. WHILE NEITHER KNOXVILLE OR LOS ANGELES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE NEW PROTOCOL AND EVEN NEW ORLEANS MIGHT BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION AS HAVING MADE ITS APPROACH UNDER THE OLD RULES, OTHER CITIES WOULD BE FROZEN OUT FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE OR MORE YEARS.

4. WHILE WE WELCOME IN THEORY THIS CONTROL (AND HAVE IN FACT RATIFIED THE NEW PROTOCOL), A BENDING OF THE RULES TO FREEZE OUT LATE ARRIVALS MIGHT WELL STIR UP CONSIDERABLE PROTEST FROM THOSE CITIES WHICH LOST OUT. WHILE THE LATE ADHESION OF THE U.S. TO THE BIE (IN 1968) WAS LARGELY SOLD TO THE CONGRESS AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN U.S. EXPOSITIONS, THERE WERE ALSO RECOGNIZED CERTAIN SPECIAL BENEFITS FLOWING FROM GREATER CONTROL BY THE BIE (REDUCED FINANCIAL DEMANDS ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND A POLITICALLY DESIRABLE TRANSFER OF THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY TO REJECT AN APPLICATION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE BIE). STILL FEW CONGRESSMEN WHOSE LOCAL DISTRICTS ARE PUSHING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION ARE LIKELY TO APPRECIATE THESE PECULIAR

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ADVANTAGES.

5. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT WE CAN CONDONE, MUCH LESS SUPPORT, AN ATTEMPT BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUBVERT THE RATIFICATION PROCESS. THE TWENTY-SIX COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE COMPLETED THEIR RATIFICATIONS DID SO ON THE BASIS THAT THE PROTOCOL WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL 29 STATES HAD BECOME PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL. TO APPLY THE PROTOCOL QUOTE PROVISIONALLY UNQUOTE (WHATEVER THAT MEANS) WOULD APPEAR TO DOWNGRADE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RATIFICATION PROCESS ITSELF. THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE TO SUPPORT A NEW CITY EACH YEAR FOR BIE APPROVAL NOR DOES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) NECES-SARILY HAVE TO APPROVE EACH NEW APPLICATION. IF IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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FELT THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY CONSECUTIVE EXPOSITIONS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, THE GA IS FREE TO REJECT AN APPLICATION OR AT LEAST TO CALL FOR ITS POSTPONEMENT. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE A BETTER AND MORE PROPER METHOD OF HANDLING A SITUATION THAT THREATENS TO GET OUT OF HAND THAN TO CONDONE A MOVE OF DUBIOUS LEGALITY.

6. ACCORDINGLY, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

QUOTE IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 14 (NW/N 300) LET ME SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS REGRET-FULLY CONCLUDED THAT IT IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL BY THE PRESIDENT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPLY ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS THE PROTOCOL OF 1972. AS ARTICLE IV OF THE PROTOCOL EXPLICITLY PROVIDES THAT 29 STATES MUST BECOME PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL BEFORE THE PROTOCOL CAN COME INTO EFFECT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROCESS CAN BE SPEEDED UP BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN TO EN-COURAGE THOSE STATES WHICH HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE PROCESS TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD H. HENRY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BIE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712103/aaaadjwv.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS A-371
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 110224
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIE: PROPOSAL TO APPLY PROVISIONALLY 1972 PROTOCOL
TAGS: AORG, BIE
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9e9cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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